

REMARKS

Claims 1-37 are pending. Claims 2-3, 7-8, 10-30, 32-33 and 37 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 31 and 34-36 are rejected. Claims 1, 4, 6, 9, 31, 34, 35 and 36 are amended for technical clarity. No new matter has been added as a result of the amendments. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute the canceled claims and/or the subject matter contained therein, in one or more divisional/ continuation applications.

RESPONSE TO REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 31 and 35-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Martin 4,127,706 or Martin et al. Martin *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 4,043,331) (collectively "Martin"). Claims 1, 5-6, 31 and 35-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Simpson et al U.S. 2004/0037813 (Simpson) or Layman et al. US 2003/0215624 (Layman). Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 31 and 35-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Senecal et al US 6,800,155 (Senecal). Claims 1, 5-6 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Ignatious et al. US 2003/0017208 (Ignatious). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections as follows:

The pending claims, as amended, are directed to fibers, network of fibers and methods of making a network of fibers comprising molecular sieves that consist of an organosilane, surfactant, an acid and an alcohol.

Martin '331 and Martin '706 teach a process of forming fibers from a polymeric material. The Martin references do not teach or suggest a fiber or network of fibers made from a molecular sieve consisting of an organosilane, a surfactant, an acid or an alcohol.

The Simpson reference teaches a process of making electroprocessed collagen, and does not teach or suggest a fiber or network of fibers made from a molecular sieve consisting of an organosilane, a surfactant, an acid or an alcohol.

The Layman references teaches vinyl alcohol polymer and copolymer fibers, and does not teach or suggest a fiber or network of fibers made from a molecular sieve consisting of an organosilane, a surfactant, an acid or an alcohol.

The Senecal reference teaches a non-woven membrane of polymer fibers, and does not teach or suggest a fiber or network of fibers made from a molecular sieve consisting of an organosilane, a surfactant, an acid or an alcohol.

The Ignatious reference teaches the formation of a fiber made of a polymer and a drug, and does not teach or suggest a fiber or network of fibers made from a molecular sieve consisting of an organosilane, a surfactant, an acid or an alcohol.

As discussed above, the cited references do not teach all of the claim limitations when considered individually. Furthermore, the combination of the references also does not teach all of the limitations of the claimed invention, as amended. Therefore, the claimed invention is not anticipated by and is non-obvious over the prior art.

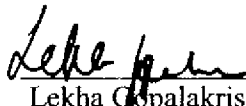
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and arguments, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

This paper is being filed along with a Petition for Three Month Extension of Time. If any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the additional fees in connection with this paper to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310 (064422-5007US).

Respectfully submitted,

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